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MCG

the X-MEN™

BONUS: CONTINUING THE BLOCK-BUSTING ORIGIN OF CYCLOPS!

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NOW STRIKES THE SUB-HUMAN!

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X-MEN! THE MOST UNUSUAL FIGHTING TEAM OF ALL TIME!™

"NOW STRIKES...THE SUB-HUMAN!"

MIDNIGHT! ...AND A ROLLING, RUMBLING SUBWAY TRAIN SPEEDS THRU THE LABYRINTHINE TUNNELS THAT WIND BENEATH THE STREETS OF THE SPRAWLING CITY, WHEN SUDDENLY...

WHAT IN..? DIRECTLY AHEAD OF US..!!

SOME WEIRD, TOWERING FIGURE APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE... RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE TRACKS!

FACE FRONT!

...'CAUSE STAN LEE'S CREATIVE COMBO OF ROY THOMAS AND DON HECK HAS DONE IT AGAIN!!

DONE WHAT? DON'T BOTHER ASKING GEORGE TUSKA, INKER, OR SAM ROSEN, LETTERER...'CAUSE THEY'LL NEVER TELL!

AND, WITH THAT STARTLED OUT-BURST FROM AN AMAZED TRAINMAN, OUR PULSE-POUNDING EPIC BEGINS..!

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I'VE THROWN ON THE BRAKES... HARD!

BUT, WE'LL NEVER STOP... IN TIME!

SKREEEEEEEE

THEN, IN THE LAST SICKENING SECOND BEFORE IMPACT...!

STILL MOVING... AND THE TRAIN'S ALMOST ON TOP OF HIM! I ...

THAT FACE!!

IT'S NOT... HUMAN!

THE NEXT MOMENT, EVEN MORE ASTONISHINGLY...

IT..IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! THAT THING BRACED ITSELF... AND STOPPED THE TRAIN!

WE'RE BEING THROWN OFF THE TRACKS!

MONSTER ATTACKS ME! BUT... I WILL SMASH IT!

KRUNCH!

AND NOW, IF YOU'VE ALREADY GUESSED WHO'S RIDING THE BESIEGED TRAIN... GIVE YOURSELF ONE NO-PRIZE, AND HANG ON...!

WHAT'S HAPPENING UP AHEAD? WE STOPPED SO SUDDENLY...!

I WISH I KNEW, ZELDA!

YOU AND ME BOTH, MR. McCOY!

--WHICH MEANS THAT I'M AS EAGER TO TAKE A LOOK... AS OL' HANK IS!

BUT, HOW CAN WE GET AWAY WITH THE GIRLS HERE, UNLESS--?

THEN, ALMOST INSTANTANEOUSLY...

THE LIGHTS... THEY'RE GONE!

THAT'S OUR GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY, LAD!

I'LL RACE YOU TO THE DOOR, OL' BUDDY!

I DON'T LIKE LEAVING THE GALS ALONE LIKE THAT... BUT THAT'S SHOW BIZ!

IT'S LUCKY THAT THE PROF TAUGHT US HOW TO GET AROUND IN THE DARK!

A SIMPLE MATTER OF USEFULLY EMPLOYING YOUR EARS, BOBBY!

BUT NOW, INTO YOUR COSTUME... POST HASTE!

SOMEHOW, I'VE A PREMONITION THAT THIS IS A TASK FOR... THE X-MEN!

BUT, AS THE SUPER-POWERED PAIR REACH THE *FRONT* OF THE DE-RAILED TRAIN---

KEEP *BACK!* NONE MAY APPROACH ME...AND *LIVE!*

BOK!

=UNNHH!= LOOK OUT, BOBBY!

=OOOF!=

EVIDENTLY, NO ONE EVER INFORMED HIM THAT *VIOLENCE* IS THE LAST REFUGE OF THE *INCOMPETENT!*

FORTUNATELY, WE WEREN'T FAR FROM A *STATION*... SO THAT THERE'S A MODICUM OF *LIGHT* FOR COUNTER-ATTACK PURPOSES!

SLAM!

OR---*IS* THAT FORTUNATE? HE'S SO UNBELIEVABLY *GROTESQUE*...!

GROTESK? YES...LET THAT BE MY *NAME!*

FOR THAT WHICH I *WAS* ...I AM *NO MORE!*

THEN, AS THE MUSCULAR ARM OF THE PALE-SKINNED CREATURE *UNCOILS* WITH FRIGHTENING FORCE---

THWAK!

HOW LUCKY CAN AN APE-LIKE X-MAN *BE?*

NOT ONLY DO I GET HURLED *BACKWARD* LIKE A VIRTUAL *RAG-DOLL--*

BUT, I SEEM TO HAVE SUPPLIED MY ASSAILANT WITH A BRAND NEW *COGNOMEN!*

I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE *TALKIN'* ABOUT, BEASTIE---

SO I'LL JUST FINISH OUR LITTLE PLAYMATE WITH AN *ICE-BOOMERANG*... WHILE YOU REGAIN YOUR *BALANCE!*

PUNY HUMAN *WORM!*

DID YOU TRULY THINK THAT A PIECE OF *ICE* WOULD HARM ME?

WELL, THE IDEA *HAD* KINDA CROSSED MY *MIND!*

ASH!

AFTER ALL, IT WORKED PRETTY WELL AGAINST *FRANKENSTEIN'S MONSTER!**

*AND SO IT *DID*.. BUT THAT WAS *LAST ISH!* ...STAN THE MAN!

WHILE WE'RE AT IT, THAT GIVES ME *ANOTHER* LITTLE BRAINSTORM... OR SHOULD I SAY *SNOWSTORM?*

IF A HEAVY BATH OF ICE PUT *HIM* IN COLD STORAGE... WHY SHOULDN'T IT DO THE SAME FOR A WEIRDO LIKE *YOU?*

CAREFUL, SON! THIS IS SCARCELY THE SAME *CREATU...*

3.

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BUT THEN, EVEN BEFORE THE LOQUACIOUS BEAST CAN FINISH...

KRa

AAKK

SCATTER! FALL BEFORE THE SHATTERING POWER OF HIM THAT YOU HAVE CALLED... GROTESK!!

=MMMFF!=

JUMP FOR IT! HE'S BUSTIN' LOOSE... WITH A VENGEANCE!

HE'S FLINGIN' THOSE HUNKS OF ICE LIKE THEY WERE PING-PONG BALLS!

WAIT! HE SEEMS TO HAVE LOST HIS TASTE FOR FIGHTING! HE'S TURNING TAIL!

THANK HEAVEN FOR SMALL FAVORS, MY REFRIGERATED FRIEND!

MAYBE I CAN STILL... NUTS! NOT ENOUGH ICE POWER LEFT TO FREEZE HIM!

FOR, EVEN IF WE CAUGHT HIM... WHAT WOULD WE DO WITH HIM?

WAIT! HE RAN INTO THAT GAPING HOLE...THRU WHICH HE MUST HAVE ENTERED THE TUNNEL!

AND... HE'S SEALED IT AFTER HIM!

I SHALL WASTE NO MORE TIME IN USE-LESS COMBAT WITH YOU, MEN OF THE OUTER WORLD!

BUT, WHEN NEXT WE MEET, BEWARE OF... GROTESK!

HOLY COW! WE WERE TOO BUSY FIGHTING FOR ME TO NOTICE WHAT A LOUD, BOOMING VOICE HE HAS!

THE BETTER TO TERRIFY YOU WITH, MY DEAR ICEMAN!

WE'D BETTER WORRY ABOUT THAT LATER, PAL! I SEE LIGHTS COMING FROM THAT STATION UP AHEAD!

=UHH!= WHEN THAT CHARACTER SEALS A PASSAGE-WAY... IT STAYS SEALED!

IT MUST BE SOME SUBWAY POLICE... THAT HEARD THE SOUNDS OF THE FIGHT!

YOUR NIMBLE MIND DOES YOU CREDIT, MR. DRAKE! IT WOULD BE UNSEEMLY FOR THE EXEMPLARY X-MEN TO BE SEEN JUST NOW!

YEAH... ESPECIALLY IF OUR GIRLS HAPPEN TO HAVE NOTICED WE'VE CUT OUT ON 'EM!

THEN LET'S CUT BACK IN... WITH ALL DELIBERATE SPEED!

THUS, A SHORT TIME LATER, IN NEW YORK'S COLORFUL *GREENWICH VILLAGE*...

I *STILL* DON'T UNDERSTAND, LOVER-BOY...

JUST WHAT *HAPPENED* TO YOU WHEN THE *LIGHTS* WENT OUT?

WHY, ZEL, I THOUGHT WE'D BEEN ALL *THRU* THAT ALREADY!

I DID WHAT *ANY* RED-BLOODED, ALL-AMERICAN BOY WOULD DO WHEN HE'S ALONE IN A DARKENED TRAIN WITH THE *LOVE OF HIS LIFE!*

NAMELY, I WENT LOOKIN' FOR A *MATCH*, NATCH!

WHAT ABOUT *YOU*, MR. McCOY?

I DON'T HEAR FROM YOU FOR *WEEKS*... AND THEN, YOU SUDDENLY ANNOUNCE YOU'RE CUTTING OUR DATE *SHORT!*

BELIEVE ME, FAIR VERA, WORDS CANNOT SUFFICE TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE *REGRET!*

YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO *TRUST* ME WHEN I SAY... SOMETHING *CAME UP!*

SUCH AS A 6'5" ANTHROPOIDAL *ABORIGINE*.. WITH UNBELIEVABLE *STRENGTH!*

PROFESSOR XAVIER WILL WANT TO KNOW ABOUT HIM... *WITHOUT DELAY!*

ALL RIGHT... IF YOU BIG, STRONG *MYSTERY MEN* SAY YOU HAVE TO GO, VERA AND I WILL BELIEVE YOU!

BUT, IF I EVER FIND OUT YOU'RE *TWO-TIMING* ME, YOU PENNY-PINCHING ROMEO...

PER-ISH THE THOUGHT! WHAT I'VE GOT WAITIN' FOR ME ISN'T *HALF* AS CUTE AS YOU... *HONEST!*

WHAT CRUMMY *LUCK!* WE SURE NEEDED A *REST-CURE* AFTER *FACTOR THREE* AND *FRANKY-BOY!*

BUT, IF *HUNCHES* MEAN ANYTHING, WERE NOT VERY LIKELY TO *GET* ONE!

MEANWHILE, ELSEWHERE IN DARKENED CAVERNS *BENEATH* THE CITY...

MUST REMEMBER HOW I *CAME* HERE... WHO I *AM...!*

BUT... THE *HUMANS* I FOUGHT... GAVE ME A NAME WHICH FITS ME NOW...

YET, I SEEM TO RECALL... I WAS NOT *ALWAYS* LIKE THIS!

MUST KEEP TRYING TO *REMEMBER..!*

"YES... NOW IT BEGINS TO COME BACK TO ME! THE CIVILIZATION WE ONCE KNEW...THE GREAT, THRIVING METROPOLIS WHICH SPREAD THRUOUT THE ENDLESS CAVERNS BELOW THE SURFACE..."

"THOUGH NONE FROM ABOVE COULD HAVE KNOWN IT, WE HAD EXISTED THERE SINCE TIME OUT OF MIND..."

"--FIGHTING OUR UNENDING, INNUMERABLE WARS.."

"...SMASHING ALL OTHER RACES WHICH OPPOSED US..."

"..YET, ALWAYS IN TOTAL IGNORANCE OF AN EVEN LARGER WORLD OVER OUR VERY HEADS!"

"AND, THOSE WHO ARE CALLED HUMANS KNEW NO MORE OF US... EXCEPT WHEN OUR CEASELESS WARFARE BURST THE VERY MOUNTAINS ASUNDER..."

"THUS WERE BORN WHAT MEN HAVE NAMED... VOLCANOES!"

"THEN, ONE DAY YEARS AGO, IN THE TEEMING AREA WHICH FORMED THE EXACT CENTER OF OUR MIGHTY SUBTERRANEAN EMPIRE..."

THE TIME HAS COME ...TO ASCEND THE MYSTERIOUS SHAFTS WHICH LEAD TO THE OUTER WORLD!

WE MUST LEARN IF THERE ARE OTHERS LIKE US..CREATURES WHOM WE CAN CONQUER!

ALL HAIL KING KRONO! WE MUST HAVE SLAVES!

ALL HAIL KING K....!

"BUT, THE NEXT FATAL, FEARFUL MOMENT...THE EARTH ITSELF SEEMED TO STRIKE OUT AGAINST US... AS A DEAFENING SOUND WAS SUDDENLY HEARD.."

BUH-ROOM!

"AND, IN THAT SINGLE, SHATTERING *INSTANT*...THE ENTIRE *WORLD* AS WE KNEW IT CAME CRASHING DOWN ABOUT US..."

WAIT, MY PEOPLE! DO NOT *RUN*...YOU MUST NOT *PANIC*!

I--*PRINCE GOR-TOK*--COMMAND YOU TO *STAND YOUR GROUND* AGAINST WHOEVER ATTACKS US!

KRUMMBLE!

IT IS *NO USE*, MY PRINCE!

EVEN THE *SON* OF KING KRONO CANNOT--

AAARRH!

"THEN, AS THE VIOLENT TREMBLING ABRUPTLY CEASED...I, WHO HAD BEEN *PRINCE* OF A GREAT PEOPLE...CALLED OUT TO THE PITIFUL *REMNANT* WHO SURVIVED..!"

DO NOT *DESPAIR*, MY SUBJECTS! WE SHALL DISCOVER WHO HAS SO TREACHEROUSLY *ATTACKED* US IN THIS WAY...

AND WE SHALL MERCILESSLY *DESTROY* THEM!

FOR, THERE ARE *OTHER* CITIES OF OUR NUMBERLESS RACE...THRUOUT THE *MILLION CAVERNS* OF THIS PLANET!

"BUT THEN, IN THE WAKE OF THE MIGHTY BLAST CAME ...THE *SICKNESS!* THE ILLNESS THAT SPREAD LIKE *CAVE-FIRE*...THROUGH ALL THE CITIES OF MY DOOMED RACE!"

"AND, ONE OF THE *LAST* TO GO WAS MY OWN *PRINCESS* ...THE LOVELY *INGAR!*"

YES...*NOW* I FULLY REMEMBER THOSE FEAR-FILLED DAYS...WHICH I NOW KNOW WERE BROUGHT UPON MY PEOPLE BY THE HATED CREATURES OF THE *OUTER WORLD!*

YET, EVEN SO...WHAT *GOOD* DOES THAT KNOWLEDGE DO ME...AS I WANDER THROUGH MEASURELESS *CAVERNS* BENEATH THEIR TEEMING CITIES?

FOR I AM...*ALONE!* AND ALONE I SHALL EVER *REMAIN!*

BUT, I WAS *CHANGED* BY THE RADIATION... CHANGED, AS THOUGH FATE DECREED THAT *ONE* OF MY RACE SHOULD SURVIVE TO WREAK AN AWESOME *REVENGE!*

I, WHO WAS ONCE FAR *MORE*, AM NOW *LESS* THAN HUMAN! I AM... *GROTESK*--THE *SUB-HUMAN!*

BUT, IT WAS THE HUMANS' *ATOMIC RADIATION* THAT MADE ME SO... THAT *KILLED* MY FATHER--MY PRINCESS.. ALL MY ONCE-PROUD *RACE!*

AND, THIS I *SWEAR*...I, WHO WAS ONCE A *PRINCE*...

--THAT, IN DYING, I SHALL FIND A WAY TO *DESTROY* THE OUTER WORLD *WITH* ME!

AND NOW, WITH *THAT* PULSATING PRONOUNCEMENT RINGING IN YOUR SHELL-SHOCKED EARS---

IT'S TIME TO DROP IN ON *PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS...*

ALL RIGHT, CYCLOPS---IT'S *YOUR* TURN! LET'S SEE WHAT YOU CAN *DO!*

USE YOUR *OPTIC BEAM*...AT ITS MOST NARROW---TO NUDGE OPEN THE *LOCK* ON THAT DOOR!

ZZZZZZ

YES, SIR!

THE PROFESSOR SEEMS *TENSE*... *SHORT-TEMPERED* TODAY!

IS IT THE *STRAIN* HE'S BEEN UNDER LATELY...OR IS IT SOMETHING *ELSE?*

I SAID TO *NUDGE* IT, SCOTT---NOT *SMASH* IT TO BITS!

BRAK!

I'M... *SORRY,* SIR!

BLAST IT! I WAS THINKING ABOUT THE PROFESSOR---AND USED TOO MUCH *POWER!*

AND NOW, WHAT ABOUT *YOU,* WARREN? YOUR TEST IN *EVASION TACTICS* IS SCHEDULED NEXT!

REMEMBER---YOU'RE TO FLY WITH YOUR HANDS AT YOUR *SIDE*...AS AN EXERCISE IN *AERIAL MANEUVERABILITY!*

YES, SIR! HOW'S *THIS?*

EXCELLENT, ANGEL! YOU DODGED THOSE FORCE BEAMS WHILE FLYING AT ALMOST *FULL SPEED!*

GOOD! MAYBE THAT'LL TAKE SOME OF THE HEAT OFF POOR *SCOTTY!*

AFTER ALL, *ANYBODY* CAN MAKE A MISTAKE!

AND SO THEY *CAN*... FOR, THE NEXT SECOND...

WHOOOOSH!

WH..? TREMENDOUS *SUCTION!* IT CAUGHT ME BY *SURPRISE!*

CAN'T *STOP*...! BEING PULLED INTO THAT *DUCT!*

RESCUE HIM WITH YOUR *LEVITATIONAL* POWERS, MARVEL GIRL---*QUICKLY!*

I'M..DOING MY *BEST,* PRO-FESS-OR!

FASTER...*FASTER!*

THAT'S NOT *GOOD* ENOUGH--- NOT *YET!*

IN HIS PRESENT STATE, ANGEL'S *HELPLESS*...AT THE MERCY OF ANY *ENEMY!*

THEN, AS THE LOVELY MUTANT *COMPLETES* HER SIMULATED RESCUE ---

IT TOOK YOU *EIGHT SECONDS* TO PULL THE ANGEL AWAY FROM THAT *SUCTION TUNNEL!*

IF AN *EVIL MUTANT* HAD BEEN OPERATING IT, YOU WOULD BOTH HAVE BEEN AT HIS *MERCY* FOR THAT TIME ---

---AND YOU WOULD BOTH HAVE BEEN *DESTROYED!*

AREN'T YOU BEING A BIT *HARD* ON JEAN AND WARREN, PROFESSOR?

AFTER ALL, YOU CAN'T EXPECT *PERFEC-TION...!*

BUT I *CAN*, SCOTT... AND I *DO!* IN OUR SWORN ROLES, ANYTHING *LESS* THAN PERFECTION --- IS VIRTUAL *SUICIDE!*

I... I SUPPOSE YOU'RE *RIGHT*, SIR!

SURE HE'S RIGHT, JEAN GAL... AS *ALWAYS!*

GREETINGS AND SALUBRIOUS *SALUTATIONS*, GROUP!

HANK.. AND *BOBBY!*

I TRUST THAT YOUNG MASTER DRAKE AND I ARE NOT INTRUDING UPON SOME TETRAGONAL *TETE-A-TETE!*

YOU'VE BEEN *WARNED* NEVER TO ENTER THE DANGER ROOM IN YOUR *CIVILIAN CLOTHES!*

TRUE, SIR... BUT, COMPARED TO OUR TUMULTUOUS *TIDINGS*, THAT'S A TRIFLING *INCIDENTAL!*

THERE'S NO SUCH *THING*, HENRY P. McCOY, AS A "TRIFLING INCIDENTAL"... WHEN ONE IS A MEMBER OF A *TEAM* SUCH AS OURS!

RULES ARE MADE TO BE *OBEYED*... FOR, ANY DEVIATION FROM THEM MAY SPELL *DISASTER*, AS I'VE WARNED YOU COUNTLESS TIMES!

ULP! WE'RE... *SORRY*, PROFESSOR XAVIER!

APOLOGY *ACCEPTED!* BUT, GIVE YOURSELVES EACH *TWO DEMERITS*... WHICH MEANS NO TRIPS TO THE CITY FOR A *MONTH!*

BUT... *PRO-FESSOR..!*

NOW, I HAVE *OTHER* MATTERS TO ATTEND TO... IN MY *STUDY!*

THAT'S *ENOUGH*, HANK!

IF YOU'VE ANYTHING TO TELL ME, IT MUST WAIT UNTIL *TOMORROW!*

I'M *COMING*, PROFESSOR!

JEAN! ACCOMPANY ME, PLEASE... I'D LIKE A WORD WITH YOU IN *PRIVATE!*

HE'S SO *COLD*... SO *STERN* TONIGHT! AND, ONLY *I* CAN EVEN *GUESS* AT PART OF THE REASON WHY!

BUT, MOMENTS LATER, IT IS A FAR *DIFFERENT* CHARLES XAVIER WHO CONFRONTS A PUZZLED *MARVEL GIRL*...

I'M SORRY I GOT A BIT *CARRIED AWAY*, JUST NOW, JEAN!

I *KNOW*, SIR, AND YET...

STILL, IT'S *ESSENTIAL* THAT THE X-MEN ACT AS A PERFECT *TEAM*... NOW, MORE THAN *EVER*!

...IF ONLY YOU'D TELL THE *OTHERS* WHAT YOU RECENTLY TOLD *ME*..!

NO, JEAN! YOU'LL HAVE TO TRUST MY *JUDGMENT*! THE OTHER X-MEN MUST KNOW *NOTHING* OF...THAT MATTER!

AND NOW, ARE YOU READY TO CONTINUE OUR *EXPERIMENTS*?

YES, PROFESSOR!

GOOD! FOR, EVEN WE CANNOT BE CERTAIN HOW UNIMAGINABLY *VITAL* THEY MAY BE...!

WHILE, IN ANOTHER ROOM...

IS IT JUST *ME*...OR HAS THE PROFESSOR BEEN EXTRA *TENSE* LATELY...MORE *DEMANDING* THAN EVER?

YOU'RE NOT JUST *CHIRPIN'*, JUNIOR BIRDMAN!

WHAT WAS IT YOU WANTED TO *SAY* TO HIM, HANK?

HUH? OH... IN MY EGO-DEFLATED STATE, I ALMOST *FORGOT*!

SETTLE BACK, LITTLE BUDDIES... WHILE I RELATE A REAL *BELIEVE-IT-OR-NOT*...!

HOWEVER, SINCE WE'VE ALREADY *HEARD* THAT ONE, LET'S SWITCH TO A SCENE AT *ARCHER COLLEGE*, IN THE HEART OF *MANHATTAN*...

SURELY, DR. HUNT, YOU DON'T EXPECT US TO *ACCEPT* WHAT YOU'VE JUST TOLD US!

IT'S *TRUE*... EVERY WORD OF IT!

AND, I'M PREPARED TO *PROVE* WHAT I SAID... *HERE AND NOW*!

BUT...TO CREATE *EARTH TREMORS*... WITH A MACHINE CALLED A *NUCLEAR OSCILLOTRON*?

IT'S *IMPOSSIBLE* ...AND YOU *KNOW* IT!

DO I? THEN, GIVE ME YOUR UNDIVIDED ATTENTION FOR A FEW MINUTES, MY SKEPTICAL FRIENDS...

...AND I'LL PROVE TO YOU THAT EVEN A COLLEGE *BOARD OF TRUSTEES* CAN BE MISTAKEN!

ALL RIGHT, DR. HUNT...IN VIEW OF YOUR *PAST* ACCOMP LISHMENTS!

BUT, IF YOU *CAN'T* PRODUCE A MILD EARTH TREMOR, YOU'RE TO STOP DISCUSSING YOUR FAR-FETCHED THEORIES IN YOUR *CLASSES*!

FAIR ENOUGH!

THUS IT IS THAT, SECONDS AFTERWARD, IN A DARKENED CAVERN *FAR BELOW* THE CITY...

ANOTHER *EARTH TREMOR*!

RRUMMM

YET, I CAME *HERE*...OF ALL PLACES WHERE ONCE MY PEOPLE DWELT... BECAUSE THERE ARE *NO* EARTHQUAKES HERE!

THEY MERELY REMIND ME OF THE ACCURSED DISTURBANCES CAUSED BY THE *SURFACE-DWELLERS*... WHICH DESTROYED MY *RACE*...

...AND OF MY OWN *HELPLESSNESS* THUS FAR IN WREAKING A JUST *VENGEANCE* UPON THEM!

FOR, WHAT HARM DOES IT DO TO DESTROY A FEW OF THEIR *VEHICLES*, WHEN...?

JUST THEN...

WHAT IS *THAT*?

RRR

RRRUMMBBL

YET *ANOTHER* SLIGHT TREMOR!

IT CANNOT BE MERE *CHANCE*! THEY MUST BE DIRECTED AT *ME*... BY THE *OUTER WORLD!*

AND, IF THAT BE SO, I SHALL SEEK OUT ITS *CAUSE!*

THEN, I SHALL *SMASH* THAT CAUSE...AND ITS *CREATORS!*

BUT...*WAIT!* PERHAPS THAT FATE WHICH *DOOMED* MY PEOPLE HAS DECREED THAT THE HOUR OF MY *REVENGE* IS AT HAND!

PERHAPS I MAY *USE* THE SURFACE-DWELLER'S DEVICE... WHATEVER IT MAY BE...TO *DESTROY* THE EARTH AND ITS MASSES...

...THOUGH *I* MYSELF MUST PERISH IN THE *HOLOCAUST!*

MEANWHILE, BACK AT *ARCHER COLLEGE*...

WHAT? *RUBBISH!!*

ALL RIGHT, DR. HUNT... YOU'VE *PROVED* YOUR POINT!

BUT, IN SO DOING... YOU MAY HAVE HERALDED THE *END OF THE EARTH!*

IS IT, DOCTOR? ARE YOU *POSITIVE?*

"IF YOUR SO-CALLED *NUCLEAR OSCILLOTRON* CAN CAUSE *MINOR* EARTH TREMORS, HOW DO YOU KNOW YOU MIGHT NOT ONE DAY ACCIDENTALLY START A DREADFUL *CHAIN REACTION*."

"...ONE WHICH MIGHT TEAR THIS PLANET APART AT ITS VERY *CORE*?"

RIDICULOUS, MR. CHALMERS!

MY INVENTION IS TO BE USED ONLY TO *BENEFIT* MANKIND...IN WAYS WE CANNOT YET *DREAM* OF!

WE'LL DISCUSS THIS *LATER!*

MEANWHILE, I SUGGEST WE HAVE THE MACHINE *MOVED* TO A PLACE WHERE IT CAN BE CLOSELY *GUARDED!*

AGREED, GENTLEMEN!

AT THAT SELFSAME INSTANT, IN *WESTCHESTER COUNTY*...

UH OH! THE *PROF'S* BACK...AND WE'RE UP PAST *LIGHTS OUT* TIME!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT *THAT!* I'VE SOMETHING MUCH MORE *URGENT* ON MY MIND!

I WANT YOU TO RE-LOCATE FOR ME...THE SUB-HUMAN CALLED *GROTESK!*

HUH? BUT, SIR... HOW DID YOU...?

YOU FORGET HOW EASILY I CAN READ YOUR *THOUGHTS*, BOBBY!

ALL OF YOU WILL RETURN TO THE SPOT WHERE THE STRANGE BEING WAS FIRST *SEEN*... ALL OF YOU BUT *MARVEL GIRL!*

YES, SIR! LET'S *GO*, CREW!

ICEMAN AND I SHALL BE IN OUR COSTUMES IN A *TRICE*, SCOTTY!

WHAT'S WITH THE PROFESSOR'S SUDDEN INTEREST IN *JEAN?*

COULD IT POSSIBLY BE THAT HE'S...IN *LOVE* WITH HER...JUST AS *I* AM?

SOON, HOWEVER, THERE IS NO *TIME* FOR SUCH PONDERINGS---AS, IN A CERTAIN *SUBWAY TUNNEL*...

GIVE IT ALL YOU'VE *GOT*, BEASTIE!

YOU'VE GOT TO LOOSEN IT, HANK--- SO MY *EYE BEAMS* CAN DO THE REST!

I'M STRAINING--- TO *CAPACITY*... DEPUTY LEADER!

SKRAKK!

BUT, THERE'S A *LIMIT*... EVEN TO-- *WAIT!*

BY GEORGE, I'VE *GOT* IT!

GOOD WORK, MR. McCOY! AND NOW---

--I THINK I CAN FORCE IT THE *REST* OF THE WAY...WITHOUT USING UP *ALL* OF MY OPTIC POWER!

THERE SHE *BLOWS!*

HANK...WHAT--? WHY DID YOU *LEAP-FROG* OVER ME JUST THEN?

IF *GROTESK* IS INSIDE HERE, LOQUACIOUS LEADER, I WANT TO ASSURE MYSELF OF *FIRST DIBS* AT HIM!

BUT...HE'S NOWHERE IN *SIGHT!* AND, THERE GOES *ANGEL!*

FIRST COME, FIRST *SERVED*, TWINKLE-TOES!

THEN, AS THE X-MEN ENTER THE OMINOUS, CRUMBLING *RUINS*...

AMAZING! SOME ALIEN CIVILIZATION MUST HAVE EXISTED HERE... BENEATH OUR VERY *FEET!*

AND NOW, IT LIES IN DESOLATE *DECAY*... AS IF *ABANDONED* FOR YEARS!

WHAT'S MORE, HANK, IT SEEMS TO EXTEND AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN *SEE!*

BUT, WHERE'S *WARREN?* HE'D BE NO MATCH FOR *GROTESK*... EVEN IF HE *FOUND* HIM!

THERE HE IS... SWOOPING AROUND LIKE A LITTLE LOST *CANARY!*

HAH! WHILE YOU THREE WERE PLODDING ALONG, I'VE SEARCHED EVERY *INCH* OF THIS PLACE...

...UP TO A POINT JUST AHEAD WHERE IT'S *REALLY* SEALED OFF!

AND, IT APPEARS OUR WEIRDO FRIEND HAS *FLOWN THE COOP!*

SOON, WHEN THE ANGEL'S VIEWS HAVE BEEN *CONFIRMED*...

I REALIZE, KIND SIRS, THAT THE *OLFACTORY* PROCESSES ARE NOT CURRENTLY HELD IN *HIGH ESTEEM* BY LESSER LIGHTS THAN I...!

BUT, MY *SENSE OF SMELL* TELLS ME THAT GROTESK WAS *HERE*...AND *RECENTLY!*

THEN, WE'VE GOT TO TELL THE PROFESSOR WE'VE *FOUND* HIS LAIR!

NO GOOD, LEADER-MAN! I *TRIED* CONTACTING HIM ALREADY...

AND THERE'S TOO MUCH *RADIOACTIVITY* TO USE OUR *WRIST-RADIOS!*

YET, WHY DOESN'T THE PROFESSOR CONTACT *US*... AS HE COULD EASILY DO BY *MENTAL TELEPATHY!*

YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS *MINE*, HANK!

MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THIS PLACE THAT *BLOCKS* HIS MENTAL POWERS... OR MAYBE HE'S GOT *OTHER* THINGS ON HIS MIND!

IN *EITHER* CASE, WE'VE GOT TO GET IN *TOUCH* WITH HIM.. *SOMEHOW!*

ANGEL, YOU AND ICEMAN GET BACK TO THE *SCHOOL*... WHILE THE BEAST AND I WAIT *HERE!*

YEAH, BUT THEN IF THAT OVERGROWN MOP-HEAD COMES *BACK*, WE'LL MISS ALL THE *FUN!*

THERE'S NO FUN IN STORE FOR *ANY* OF US, BOBBY... AND YOU *KNOW* IT!

NOW, GET *CRACKING!* THAT'S AN *ORDER*, X-MAN!

BUT, EVEN AS THE X-MEN MOVE INTO ACTION, *ZERO HOUR* FOR THE EARTH IS ALREADY DRAWING *NEAR*, AS...

YOU... SURFACE-DWELLER! WHERE IS YOUR *WEAPON*... THAT WHICH CREATED THE EARTHQUAKES WHICH DECIMATED MY *PEOPLE?*

IS THAT *YOU*, DR. HUNT? I WAS JUST *CLEANING UP*, AND... *YIPES!*

WH-WHAT IN HOLY HANNAH IS *THAT??*

WHAT CRAVEN *COWARDS* THESE DWELLERS IN THE OUTER WORLD BE!

THIS ONE *COLLAPSES* ... IN STARK *FEAR* OF ME!

AND YET... WELL *MIGHT* HE TREMBLE IN ABJECT FRIGHT BEFORE... *GROTESK, THE SUB-HUMAN!*

FOR, WHEN I FIND THE *WEAPON* I SEEK ...I SHALL OBLITERATE THIS VERY *PLANET*... AND ALL THAT *DWELL* UPON IT!

SOON, IN THE TOP-SECRET *X-MEN HQ*...

JEANIE! ARE WE GLAD YOU'RE STILL *AWAKE!*

WHERE'S THE *PROFESSOR?* WE'VE GOT TO *TALK* TO HIM!

HE GOT YOUR *CALL* BEFORE YOU ARRIVED... AND *LEFT!* BUT, HOW ABOUT FILLING *ME* IN?

THEN, AFTER THE BOYS HAVE RELATED THEIR RECENT *DISCOVERY* TO JEAN GREY...

AND, YOU WANT ME TO GO *BACK* WITH YOU... TO RENDEZVOUS WITH *SCOTT* AND *HANK?*

I... I'D LIKE TO COME ALONG... BUT I *CAN'T!*

CAN'T... OR *WON'T*, LADY? I DON'T THINK YOU'RE *LEVELING* WITH US!

THAT STORY ABOUT THE PROF *CUTTING OUT* WON'T HOLD *WATER!*

THINK WHAT YOU *WANT* TO, WARREN... I STILL CAN'T GO *WITH* YOU!

BUT, YOU MUST *BELIEVE* ME...! I'M TERRIBLY *WORRIED*-- WORRIED ABOUT YOUR *SAFETY!*

YEAH! IT *SHOWS* ALL OVER!

SHE ACTS *DISTRACTED*.. LIKE HER MIND'S A *MILLION MILES AWAY!*

IT'S AS IF SHE AND THE PROFESSOR NO LONGER *CARE* WHAT HAPPENS TO THE OTHER X-MEN... OR TO *MANKIND!*

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AND, TAKE IT FROM *US*, TIGER ...RIGHT ABOUT NOW, THE EARTH COULD *USE* A BIT OF CARING, AS...

THE DEVICE WHICH CAUSED THE EARTH TREMOR WAS *GONE*...SO I RETURNED *HERE!*

BUT WHEN THE *SURFACE-DWELLER* I CAPTURED REVIVES, I SHALL...

WHAT KINDA CRAZY *DREAM* DID I HAVE? I...

SO, SNIVELING ONE...YOU HAVE *AWAKENED!*

TELL ME WHERE YOUR *WEAPON* IS TO BE FOUND, OR...

IT--IT *WASN'T* A DREAM THAT I HAD, AFTER ALL!..

IT'S *HIM!*

DO NOT SPEAK IN *RIDDLES*, WORM! TELL ME WHAT I WISH TO KNOW...OR I SHALL *CRUSH* YOU WITH MY BARE HANDS!

BUT...BUT, I DON'T *KNOW* WHERE IT--

PUT HIM DOWN, GROTESK!

SUDDENLY, AT THE TONE OF FEARLESS *COMMAND* IN THE UNEXPECTED VOICE, THE DENIZEN OF THE CAVERNOUS DEPTHS *WHIRLS*...

IT IS ONE WHOM I FOUGHT *BEFORE*...AND, HE HAS BROUGHT YET *ANOTHER* PUNY SURFACE-DWELLER WITH HIM...TO CHALLENGE ME--THE *SUB-HUMAN!!*

ONE..TWO... OR A *HUNDRED!* IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE! *GROTESK* SHALL DESTROY FIRST *YOU*...

...AND THEN... THE *WORLD!!*

YOU'VE SUMMED UP THE SITUATION MOST *ADMIRABLY*, YOU GORILLA-FACED GARGOYLE!

STAND ASIDE, CYCLOPS! THE BELLIGERENT *BEAST* HAS A BIT OF *SCORE-SETTLING* TO DO!

NO, HANK! WE ATTACK AS A *TEAM!*

WE'VE GOT TO *HOLD HIM OFF*... KEEP HIM AT BAY TILL THE *OTHERS* GET HERE!

NEXT ISH:

THE MIND-STAGGERING STORY *YOU* NEVER EXPECTED TO *SEE*...AND *WE* NEVER EXPECTED TO *PRINT*...

"THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR X!"

THE ORIGINS OF THE UNCANNY X-MEN!™

"THE LIVING DIAMOND!"

A CONFUSED SCOTT SUMMERS HAS RELUCTANTLY ACCOMPANIED THE EVIL MUTANT WHO CALLS HIMSELF JACK O' DIAMONDS TO A DARKENED NUCLEAR POWER PLANT... WHERE, FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE PAIR COME FACE TO FACE WITH PROFESSOR X! GOT IT?

IT'S A STALEMATE! I'M SAFE... BUT ONLY FOR THE MOMENT!

MY MENTAL BOLTS ARE BARELY STRONG ENOUGH TO HOLD HIM BACK---NOT POWERFUL ENOUGH TO PENETRATE HIS MUTANT MIND!

FINISH HIM, SUMMERS... FAST!

USE THOSE BLASTED EYE-BEAMS OF YOURS---NOW... WHILE HE'S FOCUSIN' ALL HIS ENERGY ON ME!

NO...I CAN'T... I WON'T!

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS---I WON'T BECOME A COLD-BLOODED KILLER!

STAN LEE PRESTIGIOUSLY PRESENTS A ROY THOMAS-WERNER ROTH SPELL-BINDING SENSATION!

THINKING INKING BY: J. VERPOORTEN | BETTER LETTERS BY: SAM ROSEN

THAT BALD-HEADED CHARACTER---HAS MENTAL POWERS EVEN STRONGER THAN MINE! GOT TO STOP HIM, BEFORE---

OKAY, EGGHEAD-COME-LATELY---WHOEVER YOU ARE---MAYBE I CAN'T GET THRU THAT MENTAL SHIELD OF YOURS!

BUT, I'VE STILL GOT HAMMERING FISTS OF SOLID, FLEXIBLE DIAMOND ---HANDS STRONG ENOUGH TO DO--

--THIS!!

WHAM

THE NEXT SECOND---

THOSE DIAMOND HANDS---SEEM TO GIVE HIM *INCREDIBLE STRENGTH!*

SWOOSH!

HE HURLED THAT ENTIRE *STEEL SUPPORT* AT ME!

I HAD BARELY ENOUGH PSYCHIC POWER LEFT TO MAKE IT *MISS* ME!

HOWEVER, EVEN CHARLES XAVIER'S *MENTAL BOLTS* CANNOT STOP THE HEAVY BEAM FROM SMASHING INTO A NEARBY *WALL*, AND---

THE *CEILING*...IT'S *COLLAPSING!*

GOT TO GET *OUTTA* HERE--- BEFORE WE GET *BURIED ALIVE!*

KRASH!

BUT...THAT MAN IN THE *WHEELCHAIR!*

HE'S STILL *BACK THERE!*

YOU CAN'T *HELP* HIM, KID! SAVE *YOURSELF!*

MOMENTS LATER, AS SWIRLS OF *SMOKE* RISE FROM TONS OF FALLEN DEBRIS---

NO *WONDER* YOU WERE SO WORRIED ABOUT ME!

OKAY, SUMMERS--- NOW THAT *HE'S* DONE FOR---

YOU STILL *NEED* ME ---TO HELP YOU TO BREAK INTO THE *CYCLOTRON* CENTER!

LET'S GET *CRACKIN'!* I GOT *PLANS* FOR THOSE NUTTY EYE-BLASTS OF YOURS---AND THEY START *NOW!*

YOU BETTER *BELIEVE* IT, KID!

I GOT ME A HUNCH THAT TAKIN' AN *ATOMIC BATH* IN THAT GIZMO WILL TURN *ALL* OF ME INTO BULLETPROOF DIAMOND---NOT JUST MY *MITTS!*

BUT---WHAT ABOUT THAT MAN *BURIED* BACK THERE? HE MAY STILL BE *ALIVE...!*

THAT'S WHAT HE *DESERVES*... FOR BUTTIN' IN WHERE HE AIN'T *WANTED!*

NOW *COME ON*, SONNY! WE GOT *THINGS* TO DO!

A FEW MINUTES AFTERWARD, THE STEALTHILY-MOVING PAIR NEAR THEIR FINAL *OBJECTIVE* ---

THAT STRANGER'S *MENTAL BLASTS* SEEM TO HAVE ROBBED JACK WINTERS OF HIS LIMITED *TELEPORTATION* POWERS!

BUT, HE'S STILL AS *DANGEROUS* AS EVER! MUST *PLAY ALONG* WITH HIM--- FOR A *WHILE!*

THERE'S THE BUILDING I WANT! I WAS *MIXED UP* BEFORE!

MOVE IT, KID! *NOTHIN'S* GONNA STOP US NOW--- *NOTHIN'!*

JUST THEN---

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, BOTH OF YOU!

A *GUARD!* I KNEW WE'D RUN INTO ONE SOONER OR LATER!

I'LL FINISH HIM WITH MY *BARE HANDS* BEFORE HE CAN *DRAW!*

BUT, BEFORE THE OLDER MUTANT CAN MOVE...

ZAK!

A BEAM OF LIGHT...COMING FROM THAT BOY'S EYES! IT SMASHED MY GUN TO BITS!

NICE GOIN', SUMMERS! YOU'LL SHAPE UP YET!

I HAD TO USE MY OPTIC BLASTS... TO SAVE THAT GUARD'S LIFE!

C'MON! WHILE HE RUNS FOR HELP, WE CAN BUST INTO THIS BUILDIN'!

OTHERWISE, WINTERS WOULD HAVE KILLED HIM... WITHOUT MERCY!

I'LL DUCK OUT OF SIGHT IN THIS GROVE OF TREES... WHERE HE CAN'T SEE ME... TILL I FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO NEXT!

MAYBE, WITHOUT MY EYES TO HELP HIM, HE WON'T BE ABLE TO GET TO THE CYCLOTRON!

BLAM!

SO MUCH FOR THAT! HE SMASHED THRU THE DOORS WITH HIS DIAMOND FISTS!

THEN, INSIDE THE MAMMOTH STRUCTURE WHICH IS THE VERY NERVE CENTER OF THE NUCLEAR COMPLEX...

MADE IT! STILL, THIS IS NO TIME TO START PATTIN' MYSELF ON THE BACK!

WITHIN MINUTES, THAT BLAMED GUARD'LL BE BACK WITH PLENTY OF REINFORCEMENTS!

I SHOULD'A POLISHED HIM OFF WHILE I HAD THE CHANCE!

SCANT SECONDS LATER, THE EVIL MUTANT REACHES HIS DREAD DESTINATION...

THIS IS WHAT I REALLY NEED THE KID FOR... MORE THAN ANY-THING ELSE!

IT'D BE BETTER TO HAVE SOME-BODY ELSE OPERATE THIS CYCLOTRON THING, WHILE I GIVE MY-SELF A FULL DOSE!

BUT, NO USE CRYIN' OVER SPILLED BEER! I'LL HANDLE THE WHOLE BIT MYSELF!

HOPE I STILL GOT THE HANG OF IT, FROM SPYIN' AROUND WHEN I USED TO BE A FLUNKY AROUND HERE!

IT'S WORKING! IT'S WORKING!

I KNOW IT'S RISKY... BUT I'M BETTIN' THAT MY MUTANT BODY WILL WITHSTAND ALL THE RADIATION... AND TURN ME INTO A LIVING, INDESTRUCTIBLE DIAMOND!!

THEN, NO POWER ON EARTH WILL BE ABLE TO STOP ME!

MMMMMMMM

3.

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MEANWHILE, WHAT OF THE STRANGE BEING KNOWN TO THE FEDERAL AUTHORITIES ONLY AS... PROFESSOR X?

THE ONE WHO CALLS HIMSELF JACK O' DIAMONDS DIDN'T STOP TO THINK THAT MY MENTAL BOLTS WOULD SHIELD ME EVEN FROM TONS OF CONCRETE!

BUT NOW, I'VE GOT TO FIND HIM...AND THE BOY...BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

FASTER, JOE... FASTER!

WE CAN'T TAKE A CHANCE ON THOSE TWO DAMAGING THE CYCLOTRON!

IF THAT BOY'S EYES CAN DO WHAT YOU SAY, CHARLIE, WE BETTER MAKE SURE THEY DON'T DAMAGE US!

SEVERAL GUARDS... HEADING FOR THE AREA WHERE THE CYCLOTRON IS LOCATED!

THEN, IT MUST BE THERE THAT I'LL FIND JACK WINTERS... AND YOUNG SUMMERS!

AND, INDEED HE DOES... MORE SWIFTLY THAN EVEN HE COULD IMAGINE! FOR, AS THE ARMED, COMBAT-READY GUARDS APPROACH THE DARKENED AREA WHERE THE YOUNG MUTANT IS HIDING...

I SHOULD GIVE MYSELF UP... BUT, THEN THEY'D JUST ATTACK JACK WINTERS... AND THEY WOULDN'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST HIM!

GOT TO STOP THEM... THE ONLY WAY I KNOW HOW!

BRAK!

LOOK OUT! THERE'S THE KID... BLASTIN' THE JEEP RIGHT OUT FROM UNDER US!

RUN FOR COVER! WE'LL HAVE TO USE OUR GUNS AGAINST HIM!

GUNS? NO... THEY MUST NOT!

EVEN IF THE BOY ISN'T HARMED... THE SHOTS WILL WARN WINTERS, AND HE'LL ESCAPE!

THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO!

MUST HOPE THAT MY MENTAL POWERS ARE RESTED ENOUGH ..TO COMPLETELY IMMOBILIZE THE GUARDS... PUT THEM IN A STATE OF VIRTUAL SUSPENDED ANIMATION!

IT'S WORKING! THEY'RE COLLAPSING... BEFORE THEY CAN OPEN FIRE!

WHILE, NEARBY, SCOTT SWIFTLY BECOMES ONE TERRIBLY CONFUSED HOMO SUPERIOR...

THE GUARDS TOPPLED OVER... UNCONSCIOUS!

COULD IT BE SOME TERRIBLE AFTER-EFFECT OF MY OPTIC BLASTS...?

NO, SCOTT SUMMERS! IT WAS MY POWER... THE SUPREME PSYCHIC POWER OF PROFESSOR X... THAT CAUSED THE SCENE BEFORE YOU!

A POWERFUL THOUGHT... FILLING MY HEAD... LIKE THE ONE I FELT EARLIER!*

THEN... THE MAN IN THE WHEELCHAIR... HE MUST NOT HAVE BEEN KILLED!

*TO HIM IT WAS EARLIER... BUT, TO US, IT WAS LAST ISH! ... STICKLER STAN.

CORRECT, MY YOUNG FRIEND! BUT, WE HAVE LITTLE TIME LEFT FOR EVEN TELEPATHIC CONVERSATION!

IF YOU SINCERELY WISH TO UNDO ANY HARM YOU'VE CAUSED, YOU MUST DO EXACTLY AS I TELL YOU...

WHATEVER YOU SAY, SIR! I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE... BUT, SOMEHOW, I FEEL THAT I CAN ...I MUST TRUST YOU!

MEANWHILE, INSIDE THE NEARBY STRUCTURE WHICH HOUSES THE CYCLOTRON...

THAT NOISE OUTSIDE...IT MUST MEAN MORE GUARDS ARE ON THEIR WAY!

BUT, IF THIS WORKS... LET 'EM COME!

RRAAKKK

MUST INCREASE THE POWER! MUST HAVE--MORE POWER--!!

THE NEXT SECOND, THE PART-FLESH, PART-DIAMOND BODY OF THE CRIMINAL MUTANT IS BATHED IN IRRIDESCENT, SHIMMERING ENERGY...

MORE POWER! MORE! MORE!

MMMMMMMMMMMM

THEN, SUDDENLY, BOTH LIGHT AND HUMMING CEASE... ...AND A SHADOWY FIGURE STEPS FROM THE SILENT APPARATUS ---

I FEEL... DIFFERENT... HEAVIER...

CAN'T SEE IN HERE! GOT TO HAVE LIGHT!

MUST GET OUT...THE FASTEST WAY I CAN..!

THUS, TURNING ALMOST INSTINCTIVELY TOWARDS THE WALL NEAREST HIM, HE WHO HAD BEEN JACK WINTERS ABRUPTLY HURLS HIMSELF FORWARD, AND...

HAH! I KNEW IT! I'M GOING THRU IT LIKE IT WAS A WET PAPER BAG!

FROM NOW ON, NOTHIN' AND NOBODY IS GONNA STAND IN THE WAY OF...

KRAASH!

...THE LIVING DIAMOND!

NEXT ISH: "THE END...OR THE BEGINNING?"